

CHESHIRE CONSTABULARY

Cheshire Constabulary aims to make Cheshire safer through the operation of a sustainable police service where environmental issues are embedded in the decision making process.

Cheshire Constabulary recognises that as a major employer and provider of services to the community, it has an impact on the environment. Cheshire Constabulary also recognises that social and economic issues are integral to policing and these issues are addressed in our 3 year Strategy, which is delivered by the Facilities Management team, through the implementation of the Carbon Management Plan. To provide focus, the strategy concentrates on the environmental aspects of sustainable development. The performance against the Carbon Management Plan and Environmental Management Strategy is monitored by the Chief Constable and Police & Crime Commissioner through receipt of a quarterly report prepared by the Facilities Management team.

The objectives set out in the strategy are:

- To create and continually review an Environmental Management System for Cheshire Constabulary.
- To manage the environmental impact of policing in Cheshire.
- To continue to reduce carbon emissions associated with buildings.
- To continue to reduce carbon emissions associated with transport.
- To continue to reduce carbon emissions associated with waste.
- To manage the environmental impact of water usage.
- To work with suppliers and contractors to continually improve environmental performance in the supply chain.
- To procure a 'value for money' Energy Contract.
- To continue to reduce carbon emissions in line with target of 34% by 2020 (using 2009 as a benchmark).

In March 2009 and with support from the Carbon Trust the Constabulary produced a Carbon Management Plan which identified the Constabulary's carbon footprint and an initial plan to reduce emissions over a 5 year period. More recently we have realigned our reduction target with the National target of 34% by 2020, in line with the Climate Change Bill.

Baseline Information

In order to calculate the organisational baseline position, data was collected from Estates, Facilities, Fleet Management, Procurement and Finance for the calendar year 2008. The table and chart below show the initial baseline data:

	Total CO ² emissions	Buildings	Transport	Housing	Waste
Baseline CO² emissions (tonnes)	9779	5460	3974	121	223

Achievements

Through the work carried out by the Facilities Management team, Cheshire Constabulary has to date reduced Carbon Emissions by 20%. This has resulted in financial savings of approximately £211,951; the equivalent of 7 police officer posts, however, it is also important to note that if the Constabulary had not invested in a carbon management plan the 'business as usual' savings are £1,243,847 as seen in the graph below:

Specific Achievements to Date

- Installation of solar panels to 5 Constabulary buildings leading to reduced energy costs and income from Feed In Tariffs (approx. £25,000 during 2013/14).
- Energy efficiency schemes completed such as motion sensors, thermostatic radiator controls and remote monitoring of heating controls (BMS).
- Provision of car share scheme, current membership of 250 staff.
- Provision of cycle racks in order to promote sustainable commuter transport.
- Provision of on-line transport portal including rail and bus links and cycle paths throughout Cheshire.
- Recycling rate increased to 51%.
- Reduction in waste costs – total over 4 years £80,000.
- Provision of waste hierarchy training to property Officers in order to comply with waste regulations.
- Use of Cheshire based charitable organisations and third party contractors in order to reuse/recycle or recover materials from waste.
- Waste recycling containers for metals and electrical items now provided at HQ and designated sites across the county.
- Installation of water data loggers to 5 buildings including custody in order to effectively manage use of water and reduce costs.
- Installation of water saving devices (Flushwiser and Flowsaver) fitted to all toilet cisterns and urinals in order to reduce water use and costs.
- Duty of care audits carried out on waste contractors ensuring compliance with regulations and environmental criteria.
- LED lighting at Crewe, Winsford and Runcorn police stations.
- Solar thermal (generates power to heat water through solar energy to save gas)

at Nantwich police station.

- Voltage optimisation equipment installed at Crewe, Blacon police station, Middlewich and Blacon custody suites.
- Display Energy Certificates are in place and used to identify savings opportunities.
- Remote monitoring of area building temperature controls via Building Management System at Headquarters.
- Other initiatives include thermostatic radiator valve installation, flange and pipe work insulation, replacement windows and motion sensor activated lighting.

The Facilities Management team have delivered the carbon and financial savings through the traditional methods, as shown above in our list of achievements, however detailed in Appendix 1 overleaf is a case study which demonstrates that we have achieved our aim to make Cheshire safer through the operation of a sustainable police service where environmental issues are embedded in the decision making process and integrated sustainability into our routine business practices.

APPENDIX 1

Case Study: Cheshire Police – storage and disposal of cannabis related waste

Introduction

Controlled drug seizures are a result of planned operations, self-generated stop checks, or a member of the public reporting incidents to the police or members of the public finding drugs and handing them into the police.

Where cannabis factories are discovered, Officers will take sample cannabis plants as exhibits, which are booked into the police property system and stored in a vented store to prevent them from rotting. The remainder of the cannabis plants and associated materials are then removed and disposed of by a third party contractor. Cannabis plants are securely destroyed through incineration.

An example of cannabis related items seized from crime scenes together with the disposal method are listed below:-

Items	Disposal Method/Route
Electrical items/lighting	WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) specialised disposal to an authorised facility in line with the WEEE Regulations.
Metal racking	Metal recycling.
Fertilisers/chemicals	Hazardous Waste – specialised collection and disposal to an authorised facility in line with the Hazardous Waste Regulations.
Cannabis Plants	Non hazardous waste disposed of via incineration as witnessed by police officers
Plastics/cardboard/paper	Dry mixed recycling.

Whilst external contractors were used to collect and dispose of items in line with regulations at a cost, the contractor also charged Cheshire Constabulary for this service, despite them being paid a rebate by materials recycling facilities.

Rational for change

Following a duty of care waste audit carried out by one of the Facilities Managers, who is also the Competent Person for Waste and the Environment Lead, it was discovered that the services used by an external contractor to collect and dispose of cannabis related items was charged at approximately £36,000 per year.

Outcome

A review of the seizure, storage and disposal of cannabis related items was carried out at Cheshire Police with the involvement of senior police officers. New processes have been put in place which has removed the use of contractors, significantly reducing costs. Waste facilities for all different waste types are now available at designated stations across the county creating better ways of working for Police Officers responding to drug related incidents. New ways of working have reduced costs to almost zero with income from materials recycling, coming directly to the Constabulary, which is used to offset costs for the disposal of hazardous items such as electrical/chemical.

This process improvement at Cheshire was raised at National level (National

Police Estates Group – Environment Team) where a portfolio group was set up to further investigate. The group undertook an audit into the process and costs of disposal with respective forces. The results were that forces across the UK are using similar contractors to collect and dispose of this waste, with costs ranging from £30,000 to £250,000 per year. The audit also highlighted that whilst the disposal of items were chargeable forces were not receiving any income from materials recycling. It was also noted that forces have adopted different procedures for the collection, storage and disposal of cannabis related items, which was inconsistent. The group have been tasked with creating a 'Best Practice Guide' for the storage and disposal of cannabis paraphernalia to be available to all UK forces in order to reduce costs (estimated to be in the region of £500,000) which is supported by the Home Office.

The following feedback was received from the Inspector on the Drugs Unit: "Approximately 18 months ago I raised concern over the storage and destruction of controlled drugs, namely class "A" & "B", the methodology in the dismantling of cannabis farms/grows and the associated costs in destruction. As a result the Facilities management Team appointed Karen to assist me and with my knowledge of the drugs world and her obvious enthusiasm and expertise in the management of waste products we set about changing our procedures. Karen's motivation to change our procedures was evident from the beginning and immediately took responsibility for reviewing;

- Costing's
- Storage
- Disposal
- Regulations, and
- How we could improve our system and save money.

This resulted in Karen identifying a new firm to complete destruction by incineration, the hiring of suitable containers and skips, ensuring compatibility with the management of Hazardous Waste Materials Regulations, income generation from metals & waste and a significant reduction in cost.

Previously the Force has spent in the region of £36,000 a year to destroy controlled drugs but this year with the changes to the policy the cost has been significantly reduced. This is directly as a result of Karen's enthusiasm, dedication and professionalism in her role and I believe in these times of austerity Karen should be recognised for her invaluable contribution."

Summary

In an organisation where front line policing is a priority the Facilities Management team have worked hard to educate the organisation on the benefits of effective environmental management and cutting carbon emissions. Our acceptance onto the Local Authority Carbon Management Plan in 2009 demonstrates the level of commitment from the Chief Officers, which is also shown by the 20% reduction in carbon emissions that has been achieved.

The case study demonstrates innovative thinking, delivers financial benefits to the Constabulary, and shows the wider sharing of the procedures and ultimately financial savings on a national level.

At times of unprecedented financial challenge to the Constabulary, making savings in this way not only protects the environment, but also protects front line policing, therefore the work of the Facilities Management team is contributing to our overall purpose of making the people of Cheshire be safe and feel safe, whilst achieving our objective of operating a sustainable police force.



Cheshire
Constabulary

BE SAFE, FEEL SAFE